
CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

SEXUAL FREEDOM COALITION MEETING 1ST JUNE 2002

Edward Goodman, Chair of CAC, attended as representative of an affiliate organization. The meeting, in London, was addressed by a succession of speakers

Dr Tuppy Owen, Chair of SFC, explained how, after a long struggle, sexually explicit material could now be lawfully published in the country. She warned, however, that the campaign would have to continue to decriminalize the activities of sex workers.

Ruth Polling of the Liberal Democrat Party described how her motion in favour of pornography at the last Party Annual General Meeting had been misreported by the prurient British Press, who had tried to bounce the Party into dissociation. Instead, all ten Liberal Members of Parliament phoned by journalists had expressed support for the motion, after which the media gave up! In the event, however, debate on the issue had to be postponed because of emergency discussion about the 11th September 2001 outrage.

The keynote speech was by Anita Lopez of the International Union of Sex Workers. She explained how she is financing her Ph D studies by employment as a sex telephone chatline worker, which she loves. She has managed to get her union affiliated as a branch of the GMB, Britain's general workers' union. With this backing she is getting unionized sex workers to demand proper contracts. This is especially important for lap-dancers and public house strippers, who have to pay for the privilege of appearing and soliciting contributions from the spectators. In addition her union branch is campaigning to get activities associated with prostitution decriminalized. She especially wanted recognized "red-light" areas where such sex workers would be free from police harassment.

Professor Petruska Clarkson of 48 Harley Street spoke about personal sexual fulfillment. She explained how mammals were originally all gynoid. The male developed from the female (but retained certain feminine characteristics, such as nipples). The clitoris was the female penis and included the side muscles of the vagina. It was rarely stimulated by missionary position intercourse. She warned against the use of vibrators, because they desensitize; a finger was much better !

Three strippers explained in succession that they do chose that occupation because they love the "buzz" it gives them when the audience is turned on, which the performer can sense. A member of "Rockbitch" musical group (which has its own website) described their female commune in France with its own religion, which she described as "cunt-worship". A submissive woman detailed her love of being dominated and said that the new internet sites devoted to that subculture had liberated her from secrecy and isolation, by providing contact with likeminded people, including a poetry group.

A couple, who are soon to open their "Wicked Club" in Camberwell, described the fetish scene and its need for respecting confidentiality . The man said it was still dangerous to be known as a participant. He described how, when his ex-wife found from his computer that he was a member of such a club, she had used the information to obtain a court order ending his right of access to their 14 year-old daughter.

Another sad point in the meeting was a talk by a disabled man leaning on a walking-stick, who described himself as a masturbator. He explained how he had caught glandular fever when a student, which had attacked the base of his brain rendering him permanently partly dysfunctional and incapable of leading a normal sex-life. Since then he had spent a total of #20,000 on pornography and prostitutes, because that was the only way he could obtain any sexual relief.

The Sexual Freedom Coalition determined to campaign for the rights of sex-workers especially prostitutes, as they are still being persecuted.